

tents may hasten their deterioration. Replacing the tents with reproductions will deprive the American public of an experience to see the most significant objects of the American Revolution. Therefore, to further explore all options, the park will hold a charette, or group discussion, with textile conservators, curators, interpreters, engineers, lighting specialists, and others to generate ideas and recommendations.

Several ideas for long-term care and exhibition are being considered. One idea is to reproduce the dining marquee to serve as protection for the original liner placed underneath it. Another display approach might be to show the information revealed during the conservation surveys. In all cases, state of the art lighting will be a large part of the exhibit process, providing the public with sufficient light for viewing the objects, while keeping the light levels within museum standards.

Although a specific exhibit approach is undecided, the main object of the park is to place the tents back on exhibit under the best conditions and to provide the public with a better appreciation of the objects and the need to preserve them. The year 2006 is the 225th anniversary of the Siege of Yorktown. The return of these tents to the public eye with state-of-the-art conservation technology will enhance the significance of the event and the National Park Service's role in the preservation field.

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Photos courtesy National Park Service, Colonial National Historical Park.

National Register of Historic Places Web Site News

The National Register of Historic Places is unveiling a new design for its web site, at <www.cr.nps.gov/nr>, with improved organization and navigation. The number of visitors to the web site has grown exponentially, and new features are added almost monthly. The increased number of visitors is due, in part, to the many new lesson plans and travel itineraries that have been added. Thirty-three Teaching With Historic Places classroom-ready lesson plans have been added to the web site thus far, and more than 25 other lessons are planned for addition this year. Past titles include *When Rice was King* (investigating early rice plantations in South Carolina), *The Battle of Bunker Hill: Now We Are At War*, and *Clara Barton's House: Home of the American Red Cross*. Among the lesson plans to be added in the near future are *From Canterbury to Little Rock: The Struggle for Educational Equality for African Americans* and *The Washington Monument: Tribute in Stone*.

Historic places in Kingston, New York, Central Vermont, and Charleston, South Carolina, were highlighted as the first projects in an ongoing series of community-based

travel itineraries. The Register is creating these travel itineraries in partnership with local groups interested in developing heritage tourism for their community, and with assistance from the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. In addition, a Washington, DC, travel itinerary featuring nearly 100 sites was launched in October in connection with the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Preservation Conference, held in Washington. These travel itineraries joined the eight earlier travel itineraries, which focused on large cities or broad themes. *Journey Through Hallowed Ground: Route 15 Through the Virginia Piedmont* is the latest travel itinerary launched this spring, which focuses on sites located along this historic route that tell the history of this colorful region. Watch for new lesson plans, travel itineraries, and periodic celebratory features as they are unveiled throughout the year at the homepage of the National Register web site <www.cr.nps.gov/nr>.